

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02
TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-14 JUSE-00 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05
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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5133
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS POUCH

UNCLAS OTTAWA 09259

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLOS, CA, US
SUBJECT: MARINE BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS: NEWS ARTICLE
TERMS SETTLEMENT ON FOUR SEA BOUNDARIES AS POSSIBLE

1. PRESS ARTICLE IN GLOBE AND MAIL OCT. 21 DESCRIBES
PROGRESS TO DATE IN TALKS ON DISPUTED MARITIME BOUNDARY
CLAIMS BETWEEN CANADA AND U.S. ARTICLE QUOTES A GOVERN-
MENT OFFICIAL AS SAYING THAT THE TALKS HAVE PROGRESSED
SUFFICIENTLY THAT NEGOTIATORS "ARE GOING TO MAKE A GOOD
CRACK AT DRAWING BOUNDARY LINES," BUT A FINAL AGREEMENT
WAS NOT LIKELY UNTIL THE NEW YEAR.

2. THE OFFICIAL SAID THE TWO SIDES HOPED TO ANNEX TO
THE REPORT ON THE FIRST PHASE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS A SET
OF AGREED PRINCIPLES ON A JOINT COMMISSION WHICH WOULD
MANAGE THE FISHERIES IN THE DISPUTED AREAS AND ON A
SHARED ACCESS ZONE FOR HYDROCARBONS. ADOPTION OF THESE
PRINCIPLES WOULD MEAN THAT WHATEVER BOUNDARY LINES WERE
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AGREED ON, THE TRADITIONAL FISHERIES INTERESTS ON BOTH
SIDES WOULD BE PROTECTED AND POSSIBLY ENHANCED AND
ACCESS TO HYDROCARBON RESOURCES SUCH AS GAS AND OIL
WOULD BE GUARANTEED FOR BOTH SIDES. THE OFFICIAL STATED
THAT THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WOULD LIKELY POSE A NUMBER OF
OPTIONS FOR SETTLEMENT OF VARIOUS ISSUES WHICH WOULD
REQUIRE POLITICAL DECISIONS.

3. ARTICLE QUOTES OFFICIAL AS SAYING THE NEGOTIATORS
"ARE HOPING FOR A DECENT PACKAGE AGREEMENT THAT WOULD
PROTECT" THE INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES. A GOOD
AGREEMENT WOULD SOLVE "A WHOLE BUNCH OF ISSUES FACING
THE GOVERNMENT IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH EACH OTHER."
ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY POINTING OUT THAT AS WELL AS
SATISFYING THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, AN AGREEMENT WOULD ALSO
HAVE TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE U.S. CONGRESS, FISHING
INTERESTS IN BOTH COUNTRIES AND THE COASTAL PROVINCES IN
CANADA.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: ARTICLE, WHICH APPEARED FEW HOURS
BEFORE JOINT GOC AND STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASES
ISSUED ON CONCLUSION OF PHASE I OF MARINE BOUNDARIES
NEGOTIATIONS, WAS BRIEF BUT RATHER STRAIGHT-FORWARD AND
GENERALLY UPBEAT REPORT. ENDERS

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